

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for raising SB 294. This bill is important to my family because we have a 32 year old special needs child receiving DDS services who still lives at home with us. He has been on the "waiting list", which we have learned is a misnomer because there is nothing to wait for, for the past 15 years. Our son needs maximum assistance with all activities of daily living from dressing, to eating, bathing and toileting. He is ambulatory but is non verbal. We love him to death and are happy to meet his needs but as my wife and I are both in our 60's, we can foresee the day when we will no longer be able to provide him with the safe and nurturing environment he has become accustomed to. We do ask that some changes be made to the wording in the proposed bill. We ask that the word "urgent" be removed from the waiting list characterization as the waiting list should not be for emergency placements only. We also ask that families be updated annually as to their status instead of once every 3 years. We would also ask that the bill be amended so that families will be provided with copies of the documents used by DDS in making decisions about providing or increasing services. We thank you for this opportunity to be heard and hope, for our son's sake, that legislation such as this that provides for those in the special needs community receives much needed support. Yours truly, Mike and Ellen Maus, Hadlyme, CT.